

## Fluorescein Angiography

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### What is it?

This is a diagnostic test in which a dye is injected into a vein in the arm and a series of photographs are taken as the dye circulates around the blood vessels at the back of the eye.

### Why have it done?

It is done to show the circulation at the back of the eye, which aids the diagnosis of certain eye conditions and indicates to the doctor whether treatment is necessary.

### What happens?

- One or both eyes will be dilated with drops
- Colour photographs of the back of the eye are taken as a record
- A small needle is put in the arm and is left there for the duration of the test
- The dye is injected
- As the dye is injected photographs are taken of the eye for 1 minute (approx.. 20 – 30 photographs)
- You are then given a 5 minute rest
- After 5 minutes, more photographs are taken
- The needle is then removed and you are free to go
- A follow up clinic appointment will be arranged for you

### Are there any side-effects?

The dye can discolour the skin and the urine but these effects are temporary and wear off over 48 hours. There is a small chance of a reaction to the dye.

### Food?

It is not necessary to starve for this procedure, eat as you normally would.

### Does it take long?

Whilst the photographs usually take about 15 – 20 minutes, it takes some time to prepare the eye for the procedure. We have to wait for the pupil to dilate adequately for good photographs. Occasionally we have to wait for an available doctor for the injection. Every effort will be made to get this procedure done as quickly as possible.

### Driving?

Do not drive after the test until the effects of the eye drops, used to make your pupil larger, have worn off. This may take around 6 hours but sometimes the effects may linger on until the next day.

If you require this information in an alternative language or format (such as Braille, audiotope or large print), please ask the staff who are looking after you.